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AN ACCOUNT OF THE Tryal and Conviction OF Sir John Friend, FOR HIGH-TREASON

In Conſpiring the DEATH of His Moſt Sacred Majeſty, King *WILLIAM*, and the Subverſion of the *Government*. *&c.*

At the *Seſſions-Houſe*, in the *Old-Baily*; On *Monday*, the 23*d* of this Inſtant *March*, 1696. Before the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Juſtice *Holt*, the Lord Chief Juſtice *Treby*, *&c.*

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NEver was Conſpiracy, more happily, and more fully diſcovered than the late horrid Deſign for the barbarous Aſſaſſination of His Majeſties Perſon, the Invaſion of the Kingdom, and Subverſion of the Government, and conſequently the *Proteſtant Religion*; when beſide the Number, and withal the Credit of the Witneſſes, we have the publick Confeſſion of the Dying Criminals themſelves, *ex ore ſuo*, making their own voluntary ſelf Condemnation; and ever juſtifying both their Accuſers, and their own Execution; as their own Papers, delivered to the hands of the Sheriff; and ſince Publiſh'd by Authority ſufficiently teſtifie.

But to Ballance the Caſe between the three Unfortunate *Romiſh Zealots*, viz. *Charnock*, *King*, and *Keys*, that have already received *Juſtice*, and the preſent Criminal Sir *John Friend*, now brought to the Bar of *Juſtice*, in order to receiveing it, we have this unhappy Difference between them; That, of the Two, this unfortunate Gentleman lies under (if poſſible) the much more hainous, and leſs pittied Circumſtances; For though there can be no Apology for Guilt ſo Barbarous on either ſide, yet certainly it muſt be an infinite Aggravation of the Crime in Sir *John Friend*, profeſſing himſelf a Member of the *Proteſtant Religion*; whereas the other Three Convicts were all Papiſts, and conſequently were miſlead by ſome Impulſe of Blind Zeal, a Bigotted Superſtition that might animate this Conſpiracy, in favour both of their own Altars, and their darling Champion of them the late *K. J--'s*: But Sir *John Friend*, under his contrary Capacity, when Embark'd in the ſame Black Cauſe, beſides the Blot in their Scutcheon

has this additional Stain in his, *viz.* Not only of ſuch perfidious and ſhameful Treaſon againſt his *King* and Country, but even againſt himſelf; for no *Proteſtant* can liſt under ſuch a Bloody *Banner*, but in reality muſt be an Actor in his own, as well as his Countries Ruin: And certainly it muſt be no common Infatuation that could miſguide and enſnare a Man into ſo horrid and likewiſe ſo ſtupid a Confederacy, where the Phrenzy of *Rebellion* edges and arms the drawn Sword even againſt our own Throats.

And if there can be Degrees of the moſt Capital Sins, it lies a little more heavy upon this unfortunate Offendor, who with that *Maſs* of Wealth, and thoſe Smiles of Fortune, ſhould nevertheleſs debaſe himſelf to the engaging in ſo wicked a Cauſe, when Profligate Lives and Deſperate Fortunes (one would think) ſhould only be tempted to *Fiſh in Troubled Waters*.

It has been Remarkt, that never were more Generous, and thoſe Repeated, Tenders of *Mercy* offered, than to Sir *John Friend*, from the King's own Mouth, upon his Examination before the Councel; but his Obſtinacy, and hardened Denial of his Offence, and ſome other ill Aſcendants over made him, reject the Royal Clemency, till too late to be recalled, which has brought him to this deplorabel Scene.

Being brought upon his Tryal, on *Monday* the 23*d*. of this Inſtant *March*, after *Ten* in the *Morning*, which continued till *Two* in the Afternoon. The greateſt Streſs of the Teſtimony againſt him, beſides his General Aſſiſtance in the *Conſpiracy*, was his Acceptance of a *Collonels Commiſſion* for Raiſing a Regiment of Horſe; it being proved by *Capt. Porter* and *Mr. Blair*, that he had choſen all his *Captains*, (who were all mentioned) and had met them at ſeveral Taverns and elſewhere in this *City*, and had Paid ſeveral Sums of *Mony* for carrying on the cauſe: The Evidence was Full and Plain againſt him; beſides one of his own Letters was produced to confirm their Teſtimoy: He endeavoured to invalidate the credit of the Witneſſes, as being *Papiſts*, but that was Over-ruled. In ſhort after a long Tryal and Full Hearing the Jury went out, and ſoon Returning, brought him in *Guilty*.

The Court then Riſing, and Adjourning till to Morrow, at which time we expect to hear Sentence *Pronounced.*

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